

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 2/13/08, 7:15 to 10:00 PM, Town Hall Annex 2nd Floor Conference Room
Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Lieut. Paul Conroy, John Lentz, Jeff Maxtutis, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener.
Non-members Present: Paolo Marinelli, Angela Alton (Thompson School Parent), Jane Biondi (Thompson Parent), Nina Fisher (Thompson Parent), Sheri Donovan (Thompson Principal)

1. Public Comments, for information not action. Paolo Marinelli spoke seeking support from TAC on 3 issues: continuation of plowing by Town of the Minuteman Trail; support of warrant article for snow removal by Town around the schools, particularly clearing of curb cuts and sidewalks; accelerating construction of curb cuts and handicapped ramps. TAC will take under advisement and discuss.
2. Thompson School Recommendations for Board of Selectmen. Scott distributed "Thompson Pedestrian Safety Recommendations", 5 February 2008 for discussion. A Vote is required by TAC to establish a school zone if it meets all the criteria. Scott moved approval of the following:
 - Recommendation #3. Establishment of a School Zone, voted unanimously.
 - Recommendation # 4. Installation of crosswalk sign assemblies at 4 intersections,
 - Recommendation # 5. Addition of crosswalks, agreed to postpone until next meeting.
 - Recommendation #6. Addition of parking signs,
 - Recommendation #7. Addition of signs and markings near North Union/Broadway,At the end of the discussion, recommendations 4, 6 and 7 were voted unanimously. Since none of these recommendations involve a change in the town traffic rules, they do not need to go before the Board of Selectmen.

Angela Alton will put together a CDBG application for sidewalk installation on east side of Everett Street, and for curb improvements on the west side of North Union Street. Asked for TAC support to construct sketch of sidewalks and attendance at the CDBG meeting on 3/10.
3. Administration.
 - 1/9/08 minutes, Voted to approve unanimously.
 - Correspondence and current projects were reviewed. Ravine/Irving Street sign installation has to wait until spring thaw.
 - Letter supporting grant for wall replacement bordering Town Gardens, Voted to approve unanimously.
 - TAC Annual Report, Voted to approve unanimously.
4. Appleton One-Way Recommendation. Postponed to next meeting because of Mike's absence.
5. Downing Square. Working Group will meet with consultant at end of month. WG to include Jeff, Mike, Ed, Elisabeth, Sue and BSC.
6. Westminster Phase 2 Recommendations for BoS. Elisabeth distributed "Westminster/Mt. Gilboa Project Update", dated 13 February 2008, and "TAC Westminster/Mt. Gilboa Project Update, dated 9 January 2008". After review by the neighborhood working group, public meeting and TAC vote, recommendations for Arlington will go to Board of Selectmen. Proposed recommendations for Lexington intersection will follow.

7. Germaine Lawrence School Discussion. Jeff suggested a parking survey to determine who is parking around the perimeter of the school. Also will look at signage. School may have installed some signs on public property.
8. Taylor Rental Drawings. Laura presented site plan for demolition of Taylor Rental building and new construction of retail space. Jeff and Jean made some suggestions regarding backing out and insufficient sidewalk between new building and access aisle to rear of building and most of the parking. Laura will bring feedback to ARB.
9. Stratton School. Working toward Phase 1B. Meeting in late February.
10. Dallin School. Paul and Jeff met with Principal, who wants to keep "No Parking" sign, and add "Student Drop-Off Only, No Parking" sign on George Street. Paul would like to see all school signs standardized. Will we have a drop off area at each school? This requires a parent volunteer to help younger students get from car to school so parents don't have to leave their car. Paul, Jeff and Elisabeth will work on a standard sign for all school districts.
11. Peirce School. Elisabeth made an initial contact with the principal. Elisabeth and Ed to seek interested parents for Peirce Safe Routes committee.
12. Bishop School. Initial meeting occurred. Process is underway.
13. TDM Grant, Parmenter School. Laura reported that we got a preliminary approval from the State to proceed with this project. They will provide services from MassRides, and money for bike racks. Town will need to provide funds for MBTA pass subsidies. We will need to present this program to the Board of Selectmen for their support. The State would like us to include Central School, Town Hall and Library in Phase 1.
14. Dearborn Academy Update. Paul reported that the school has adopted the recommendation of sharing drop offs and pick ups between Winter Street and Oxford. It seems to have improved conditions greatly at pick up and drop off times.
15. Green Line Extension Meetings/Action. Laura reported that we are scheduling a meeting for Arlington, tentatively scheduled for March 26 at Town Hall. Need to concentrate outreach in Precincts 1, 3 and 5. Laura was appointed to the Green Line Extension Advisory Board representing Arlington. Scott and Ed reported on Medford meeting where a possible Mystic Valley Parkway/Route 16 at Boston Ave. station was discussed. Concerns raised regarded land takings, a parking garage which appeared on the plans, and connections to commuter rail and future Alewife Brook bike path.
16. MBTA/Arlington Heights Bus Turnaround. No progress this month. One possibility is that if Panera expands, they will need additional parking, and might be interested in paying to do some reconfiguring at the site.
17. Thorndike Parking Update. Meeting occurred. Supply of parking cannot increase enough to meet demand. Promote parking on Varnum and Brooks Streets. Meeting in March with Commission and landscape architect.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package: Agenda, 2/13/08; Minutes of 1/9/08; Memo from Marie Krepelka to Ed Starr re: Traffic and parking issues: Ravine, Irving and Academy Streets, dated January 17, 2008; Letter from Arlington Children's Center to Board of Selectmen, dated January 7, 2008; Letter from Ecole Internationale de Boston, Memo from Joe Tulumieri, Chair Zoning Board of Appeals to Board of Selectmen re: Traffic Parking Problems,-Germaine Lawrence School, dated January 23, 2008; Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, dated 2/13/08; Project Status, 2/13/08; Draft Check List for Phase One of Schools, dated 2/9/08
 Westminster/Mt. Gilboa Project Update, 13 February 2008.
 Thompson Pedestrian Safety Recommendations, 5 February 2008.